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NSC BRIEFING

27 May 1954

KHRUSHCHEV'S RISE IN PRESTIGE

- I. During past week Khrushchev has received unprecedented degree of personal publicity.
 - A. Kazakh press and radio on 19 May carried full report of his inspection trip to Kazakhstan.
 - B. Pravda printed speech by Railroad Minister Beshchev containing a twelve line quotation from Khrushchev's recent Central Committee Speech.
 - C. Pravda printed speech by Kaganovich containing references to Supreme Soviet speeches of Khrushchev and Malenkov, but contrary to protocol, Khrushchev mentioned first.

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- D. 22 May speech of Ukrainian First Party Secretary Kirichenko commemorating 300th anniversary of Russian-Ukrainian reunification included Khrushchev but not Malenkov in brief list of "loyal disciples and comrades of V. I. Lenin" who helped form the Soviet Ukraine.
- E. Kazakh and Uzbek delegates to celebration also went out of their way to laud Khrushchev.
- II. Significance of Khrushchev's new prestige.
 - A. Contrary to concept of collectivity.
 - B. Reflects adversely on Malenkov's status as head of party and state.
 - 1. Malenkov's name not known to have been mentioned once in available accounts of Russia-Ukrainian celebration.

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- C. Logical for Malenkov to make some move in near future to counter this trend.
- D. Its continuation could only suggest that Khrushchev's position and influence is greater than Malenkov's.